

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2491

As Reported by House Committee On:
State Government & Tribal Affairs

Title: An act relating to candidate filing.

Brief Description: Modifying candidate filing provisions.

Sponsors: Representatives Green, Chandler, Hunt, Armstrong and Appleton; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 1/16/08, 1/22/08 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the option to file declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of State for candidates for single-county offices.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Chandler, Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Kretz, Liias, Miloscia and Ormsby.

Staff: Tracey Taylor (786-7196).

Background:

In order to initiate a candidacy for office, one must file a declaration of candidacy. Historically, candidates for single-county office filed with the county auditor and candidates for multi-county office filed with the Secretary of State (SOS). In 2005 the Legislature enacted legislation that allows candidates for single-county offices to have the option of filing either with the county auditor or the SOS. This option exists for candidates for over 250 offices.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The option of filing a declaration of candidacy with the SOS for single-county offices is eliminated. The filing fee statutes are updated to reflect that as a result of the change regarding filing locations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Multiple filing offices increases the risk of error and leaves candidates temporarily in the dark regarding potential opponents. This impacts over 250 offices across the state. The bill reverts to the historical practice of allowing candidates for single-county office to file with the county auditor only. Thus, by returning to the practice of filing for single-county offices only with the county auditor, the bill will provide greater security in the administration of the election and greater certainty for candidates. There is no change for statewide offices and candidates filing for multi-county office.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Shane Hamlin, Office of the Secretary of State.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.